AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)**: A method for locating difficult access points on a topological map using discontinuities between curvilinear distances of neighboring points, the method comprises the steps of:

scanning points on a map of curvilinear distances, using reliefs only crossable by detour trajectories;

reading estimated value DT(0) of the curvilinear distance assigned, in the map of curvilinear distances, to a point C_{00} under analysis;

determining a Euclidean distance C(V) separating a point V under investigation, from the point C_{00} under analysis using a chamfer mask distance transform;

determining an estimated value DT(V) of the curvilinear distance assigned, in the map of curvilinear distances, to the point V under investigation;

calculating an absolute value of any discrepancy between the estimated values of the curvilinear distances, DT(0) and DT(V), with the determined Euclidean distance C(V); and

determining a difficulty of access and transforming the point C_{00} under analysis based upon an inequality of the absolute value calculated and the determined Euclidean distance C(V)~~from a reference point on a topological map established on the basis of a map of estimated curvilinear distances separating the points of the topological map from the reference point, comprising the steps of:~~

~~analyzing the map of curvilinear distances by means of a chamfer mask cataloging the approximate values C(V) of the Euclidean distances by separating a point C_{00} of the map from its nearest neighbors V, so as to extract therefrom, at each~~

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point ~~C_{00} of the map of curvilinear distances, the discrepancies (DT(V)-DT(0)) of curvilinear distances separating the point considered C_{00} from its nearest neighbors V;~~

~~comparing the discrepancies (DT(V)-DT(0)) with the approximate values C(V) of the Euclidean distances of the chamfer mask; and~~

~~describing the point considered C_{00} as difficult of access when a difference appears.~~

2. (**Currently Amended**): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein <u>determining a difficulty of access and transforming the point C_{00} under analysis based upon an inequality of the absolute value calculated and the determined Euclidean distance C(V) includes using</u> several thresholds ~~are used during the comparison of the discrepancies of curvilinear distances and Euclidean distances, so as~~ to ~~devise degrees~~ <u>determine a degree of importance</u> ~~in the importance~~ of ~~the detour~~ <u>a detour</u> required to reach a difficult access point.

3. (**Currently Amended**): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the <u>difficult access</u> points of the map ~~of curvilinear distances that are regarded as difficult of access~~ are ~~located on the topological map~~ <u>established on the basis of the map of curvilinear distances</u> by a pattern and/or a particular texture.

4. (**Currently Amended**): The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the degrees in the importance of the detour required of a difficult access point are ~~evidenced~~ <u>indicated</u> on the topological map by different patterns and/or textures.

5. (**Currently Amended**): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chamfer mask used ~~for the locating of~~ <u>for locating</u> the difficult access points is of dimension 3×3.

6. (**Currently Amended**): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chamfer mask used for ~~the locating of the~~<u>locating the</u> difficult access points is of dimension 5×5.